

- 3a Hind femur and tibia mainly reddish-yellow 4
 – Hind femur and tibia mainly yellow-white, claws with large sub-apical inner tooth, penis valve (Fig. 4 in this paper) *P. leucopus*
 It is not known whether British males emerging in May have black on the femora.

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SHORT COMMUNICATION

***Harmonia axyridis* (Pallas) (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae), the multi-coloured Asian ladybird, an etymological note.** – There have been several recent publications in 2005 (e.g. Roy *et al.*, Ecology of the harlequin ladybird a new invasive species. *British Wildlife*, 16: 403–407; Ware *et al.* The harlequin ladybird arrives in Britain: a threat to our native species? *Bull. amat. Ent. Soc.*, 64: 175–186), and many articles in the media, on the arrival in the British Isles of the coccinellid *Harmonia axyridis*. These provide what seem to be unnecessarily alarmist accounts of possible detrimental effects of this species on our existing coccinellid populations as well as on the populations of a number of other insects. In producing these accounts of *H. axyridis*, which is known throughout most of the English speaking world by the common name of multi-coloured Asian ladybird, has been re-christened the Harlequin ladybird. The reason for this change can only be guessed at, but the new name has no doubt been chosen to reflect the wide range of colour varieties found in this species, reminding one of a harlequin clown. There is, however, a probably unintentional significance to this name. Harlequin derives from the Old French *Herlequin* or *Hellequin*, the leader of the Wild Host or troop of demon horsemen (*The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary on Historical Principles*. 3rd edition, revised 1973, Clarendon Press, Oxford). Given the predicted results of the spread of this species it will be interesting to see whether its real attributes will be those of the *Herlequin* or those of a parti-coloured bespangled clown taking advantage of a vacant urban niche. – JOHN MUGGLETON, 17 Chantry Road, Wilton, Salisbury, SP2 0LT